

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....14th January 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Climate Change Strategy

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Climate Change Strategy.

The Council had a responsibility to contribute locally to the UK's strategy in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions and better preparing for extreme future weather events. The Council had a strong track record in both of these areas. The Council Plan contained the objectives of delivering the 'Green Vision' of a low carbon economy and improving resilience to extreme weather events, and this strategy aimed to meet both those commitments. A copy of the Climate Change Strategy was attached to the report.

A manifesto commitment was made in 2015 on emissions reductions and a target was set to 'cut the Council's own carbon emissions by a further 5% by the end of 2016 and 21% by 2020'. Both of these targets form the basis of the greenhouse gas emissions element of the strategy, together with a trajectory to meet the 2020 target. Page 20 of the strategy outlined 4 key priorities on mitigation and a range of actions to be delivered in order to progress towards the target. In order to contribute towards the Council Plan objective of improving resilience to extreme weather events, page 21 of the strategy outlined 3 key priorities on adaptation and a range of actions to be delivered in order to significantly improve preparedness for communities and the services.

As a result, the Climate Change Strategy aimed to address the challenge of meeting the CO2 reduction targets by the year 2020, ensure that the Council was better prepared for future extreme events, could minimise the impacts of them when they occur, and meet the Climate Local obligations.

The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a binding reduction target requiring the UK to reduce its emissions by at least 80% by 2050 against 1990 levels and the Council had responsibilities to submit annual emissions reports on performance as well as on domestic energy

efficiency performance and fuel poverty. The Council had made significant contributions over the past few years to the work of reducing emissions across the Borough particularly under our first Carbon Management Plan and Climate Change Action Plan in 2008/2009. These programmes had led to direct significant reductions in emissions with a Borough wide emissions reduction of 27% since 2005, while the Council reduced emissions from direct Council activity by 18%, or 5877 tonnes, between 2012 and 2015. This was a positive environmental impact but also contributed to improved financial sustainability through reduced energy and fuel use.

The Council was recognised nationally and ranked 5th under the annual, independent Local Authority Energy Index of 103 English and Welsh local authorities however, the Council needed to begin dovetailing work on reducing emissions with future adaptation actions to better protect the Borough. The Council had successfully delivered a range of former climate change plans, strategies and policies in previous years including the Climate Change Action Plan, Sustainable Energy Action Plan, Carbon Management programme and Renewable Energy Strategy, and this strategy brought these strands together in one document and superseded all previous plans.

The strategy sets out to reduce Council emissions by 21% on a 2014/15 baseline by 2020, reduce Borough wide emissions by 18% by 2020 on a 2013 baseline, and improve preparedness for future extreme events. As a result, this Climate Change Strategy aimed to address the challenge of meeting the CO2 reduction targets by the year 2020, ensure that the Council was better prepared for future extreme events, could minimise the impacts of them when they occur, and meet Climate Local obligations.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report and the excellent performance in recent years on greenhouse gas emissions reductions be noted.
2. The Climate Change Strategy be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To present a new Climate Change Strategy and action plan covering 2016 – 2021, superseding a range of individual plans and strategies on carbon reduction, climate change and renewable energy, in order to set out our objectives and targets for further reducing greenhouse gas emissions and better preparing for future changes in climate and extreme

weather.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on 22nd January 2016.

Proper Officer  
18 January 2016